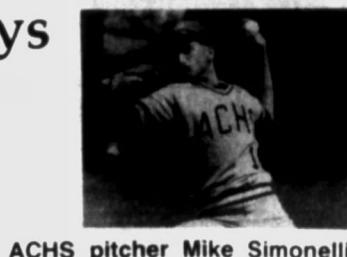


The Graduates

Look in next week's
Advocate for a complete list of
ACHS and AHS graduates

Tourneys

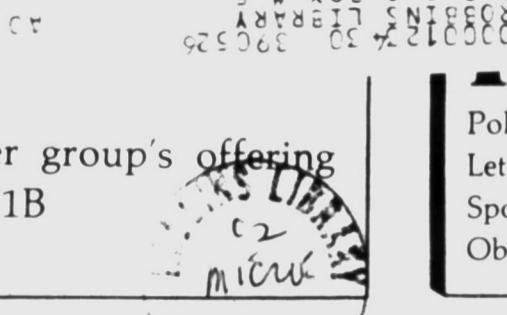
Local
teams in
chase /
page 1C



ACHS pitcher Mike Simonelli

Rappa

Local theater group's offering
shines/page 1B



Police log.....7A
Letters.....8-13A
Sports.....1C
Obituaries.....13C

Index

The Arlington Advocate

VOL. 117, NO. 23

Thursday, June 8, 1989

The Community Newspaper Since 1872

48 Pages

50 cents

Override question goes before voters

This Saturday voters will go to the polls with a single question to answer: Should Proposition 2½ be overridden?

On the ballot this special election, town residents will find only that question on the ballot. Answering the ballot question yes is a vote to override the tax cap, which limits the amount property taxes can be raised town-wide to 2.5 percent annually. A no vote on Question one is a vote to leave the revenue limits in place.

The ballot question seeks to \$2,269,528 in a "general override" of Prop. 2½ for use in school and town departments. Of the money sought in the override, \$1,134,764 would be used in fiscal 1990, which begins this July 1, with the remainder to be used in fiscal years 1991 and 1992.

The roughly \$2.3 million from the override would be added to the tax base, from which 2.5 percent tax increase is calculated annually. An override does not eliminate Prop. 2½ but is a one-time change in the amount of money raised through real estate taxes.

Town officials estimate that the override would cost an average homeowner, with a home assessed at \$200,000, about \$144 a year.

Money from the override would be sent to both the schools and variety of town departments, all having recently suffered severe cuts. The "override budget" was passed at Town Meeting, so, in the event that voters do choose to override, Town Meeting would not have to hold a special session, at much added expense, to decide how the money should be divided and where it should go.

All departments were asked this year to present two budgets at Town Meeting, one without the override and one with override money.

The override budget provides funds for:

(See QUESTION, page 4A)

Question 1:

"Shall the Town of Arlington be allowed to assess an additional \$2,269,528 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding operating expenses of the Town and the schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, nineteen hundred and eighty-nine?"

YES _____ NO _____

Polling places

The following is list of polling places that will be open on June 10 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Residents are reminded they must vote in the precinct where they live.

Precinct 1 Thompson School Building, entrance on North Union Street
Precinct 2 Hardy School, entrance on Lake Street
Precinct 3 Edith Fox Library, entrance on Cleveland Street
Precinct 4 Hardy School, entrance on Lake Street
Precinct 5 Thompson School Building, entrance on North Union Street
Precinct 6 Gibbs Junior High (East), entrance on Tufts Street
Precinct 7 Gibbs Junior High, entrance on Tufts Street
Precinct 8 Town Hall, entrance on Massachusetts Avenue
Precinct 9 Chestnut Manor, entrance on Chestnut Terrace
Precinct 10 Town Hall, entrance on Massachusetts Avenue
Precinct 11 Bishop School, entrance on Stowcroft Road
Precinct 12 Brackett School, entrance on Eastern Avenue
Precinct 13 Stratton School, entrance on Mountain Avenue
Precinct 14 Highland Fire Station, entrance on Massachusetts Avenue
Precinct 15 Stratton School, entrance on Mountain Avenue
Precinct 16 Dallin School, entrance on Florence Avenue
Precinct 17 Highland Fire Station, entrance on Massachusetts Avenue
Precinct 18 Dallin School, entrance on Florence Avenue
Precinct 19 Peirce School, entrance on Park Avenue North
Precinct 20 Park Avenue Congregational Church, entrance on Paul Revere Road
Precinct 21 Peirce School, entrance on Park Avenue North

Past tries failed

By P.L. BUSTAMANTE
Advocate Assistant Editor

If past special elections are any indication of how voters will punch their ballots this Saturday, the prognosis for an override of Proposition 2½ is not good.

Voters gave a resounding "no" to the question of spending \$18.5 million to build a new high school in the town's last special election in 1975.

The answer was also an overwhelming "no" the last time voters were asked if they wanted an override of Prop 2½, which was in March 1987 during the town elections.

The 1975 new high school referendum was a double-whammy; the townspeople voted down the proposal not once but twice.

In that year, more voters showed up at the polls to vote on the question than had turned out for almost any town election since 1957. The vote was 7,215 to 6,393 to stop any plans for the project.

But, with threats of academic probation held over the high school by the state accreditation board, proponents rallied their forces and quickly mustered a special Town Meeting in April to schedule another election for June.

The proposed expenses for a new high school had gone up \$1 million to \$19.5 million, and the ballot question was divided into three parts so that townspeople could swallow some expenses of a new high school and not others.

Again voters turned down the proposal, all three parts.

Town Clerk Anne Powers said she is expecting a high turnout for this Saturday's election, possibly more than the 38 percent that showed up to vote down the new high school in 1975.

(See PAST, page 4A)



Entertainer and school luncheon worker Teddy Scott.

(George Ferrar photo)

On stage, in school, he's a top entertainer

By JAMES BRISCOE
For The Advocate

Introducing the man of the hour, the one who has the power to make you groove, and blow you out of your shoes. A man who has made it to the top and still has a tremendous heart. And on top of all that he's the only lunch dad in Arlington. Introducing Teddy Scott.

Scott has lived on Franklin Street in Arlington for the last 15 years. For the last 39 years he has been a member of the extremely successful G-Clefs, a singing group that he formed with his four brothers back in 1950 while they were growing up in the Roxbury-Mattapan area.

"We are an exceptional and diversified group of entertainers," said Scott. "We need to be because we are five brothers who all have basically the same voice. We do comedy skits and everything and don't want to be categorized."

"We are the only Boston group from that era that is still in business. We've also still got all our original members and still aren't bald and pot bellied," said Scott laughing. "Our fans and friends can't believe it when they see us again after all those years."

The G-Clefs began to tour abroad in 1969 with great success and have played in places such as Japan where they climbed Mount Fuji and the Copacabana in Cuba where they shared the stage with Johnny Mathis.

"We worked 352 days a year and were always broke," said Scott. "When we toured with other groups it wasn't any better. We played the Apollo Theatre seven times. We would play 13 shows a day and make \$700 a week, but our hotel bill would be \$800 and that wasn't even including food."

"In closing, I would like to quote a verse from a poem by Madeline Bridges, entitled 'Life's Mirrors':

"There are loyal hearts, there are

spirits bright;

there are souls that

are pure and true, then give to the

world, and the best will come back to you."

He added: "And now the

diplomas."

The ceremonies began with the traditional processional march of "Pomp and Circumstance" and the National Anthem, both played by the Arlington High School band, directed by Pasquale Tassone. Following the invocation made by the Rev. John Picardi of Arlington High School class of 1974, Michael B. Wright, the president of the Student Council, greeted his class with a challenge to a life structured on individualism.

"Don't be afraid to look a little

strange now and then. Nobody

should pretend that actions are

as free as opinions. It should be real

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SISTER CITY NEWS**Delegation set for trip to Japan**

(The following is a continuation of a regular feature on Arlington's sister cities.)

By DICK SMITH
Special to The Advocate

In approximately one month, the members of the Delegation being sent to Japan by Arlington Youth Visit Exchange Program Inc. (AYVEP), will begin their trip.

The group will be spending a week of their stay in Japan, from July 22 through July 28, in Arlington's Sister City, Nagaokako. During their time in Nagaokako, they will spend much of their time in their neighboring city of Kyoto.

Delegation Head, and Sister City Committee Chairman, Richard E. Smith will also be spending a great deal of time discussing future activities of the two Sister Cities, especially the activities which will be planned for September to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the relationship.

The AYVEP group will be joined by another smaller group in Nagaokako, for a total contingent of about 12 or 13.

At the end of the Japan portion of the trip, Aug. 2, most members of both groups are scheduled to leave The People's Republic of China, where they plan to spend eight days. The China portion of the trip is being planned by the city of Ningbo, which is another Sister City of Nagaokako.

In addition to visiting Ningbo, the group plans to visit Boston's China Sister City of Hangzhou, the old ancient city of Shaoxing, and China's largest city, Shanghai.

The recent demonstration in China, especially the violence which has taken place in recent days, have raised questions about the China segment of the trip. If events in China do not calm down quickly, it may be necessary to modify the itinerary so as to avoid danger spots.

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— Refreshments will be served —

9 Chestnut Street, Arlington, Massachusetts
(across from St. Agnes' Church)

Drinking still plagues kids

(From page 1A)
spray-painted walls, broken athletic field equipment, and one odd incident in which the Resusci-Annie (a CPR demonstration machine) ended up on the track.

Robbins Farm Park area has also suffered its share of destruction. Several times, area residents have reported the park chewed up by joy-riders driving their cars through the muddy fields. The Brackett Elementary School was covered wall-to-wall with obscene graffiti last February.

Vandalism may be an ugly, costly nuisance, but the real danger of teens drinking is the damage it can and does do to the teenagers themselves, said Allen.

Many teen drinkers are old enough to have a driver's licenses, increasing the risk of car accidents and fatalities.

The drinking also interferes with socialization, said Allen, including interpersonal relations and ability to deal with school.

But teens hanging out and drink-

ing can be a difficult to stop.

"Like anything else it's the fashionable thing to do," said Allen.

"I think kids today face two types of peer pressure — one from their peers, and the other is corporate pressure. For example, the town pays between \$3,000 and \$5,000 a year to educate kids on alcohol and drug abuse. Budweiser will spend \$100 million on Spuds MacKenzie. How do you fight that?"

According to Allen, most of the advertising on television, radio, and in print is directed at youths, spreading a message that says drinking is "life on the beach," and "macho fun."

"Was Spuds MacKenzie made for a 45-year-old guy with three kids?" he asked.

Allen also pointed out that many alcohol companies make t-shirts and caps with the beer logos in sizes for little children.

"What's basically happening here is corporations are trying to expand their base, and that base is expand-

ing to the kids," said Allen. "That is what we are up against. Corporations that are out there telling our kids that drinking is cool, sophisticated, manly. It's not. Kids are messing up their lives because of what they see on television."

Though the advertising odds are against the parents, there is still something that can be done and that parents can do to increase awareness, according to Allen.

"It still comes back to the parents," said Allen. "Know where your kids are. Get involved. If your kids say they are going down to Brigham's, get in your car one night and check out what's going on."

Parents can be aware of where their kids are, "I don't really think it's rocket science, just checking on your kids."

As for the advertising, parents can make their children aware that everything they see or hear isn't necessarily the truth, and help them to make informed choices, Allen said.

Scott doesn't measure his riches in money

(From page 1A)

"I've got to be with children to let them know that there is more to life than just work and school. These are little people who we have to show how to grow up to be good, kind, and loving big people," said Scott.

After taking his three youngest daughters, Loni aged 19, Courtney aged 7, and Rani aged 6 to Thompson School, he works in the cafeteria from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. There, along with about five other volunteers, he serves breakfast to about 300 children. Meals are 30 cents or free, for those who can afford it.

"We have to make sure they eat, clean up, and generally just direct them because Cheerio fights at 7:30 a.m. can lead to pandemonium. It requires a special type of understanding and love to keep them all in order," said Scott. "I might have to raise my voice occasionally, but that is all. Children shouldn't have to be faced with abuse or be put down at school."

Thompson School Principal Mike McCabe said of Scott, "He lets the kids know when they've done something wrong, but he treats everyone very specially. He has a type of personality which makes you feel that he loves you just for who you are. He's really become part of the family here at Thompson and is one of those people who do more than what's expected of them."

"I also think that because of his rich life he is able to synthesize his past experiences and that helps him to understand children and their unique backgrounds, particularly those with tough home situations," said McCabe.

Scott then returns for more fun and games when he helps to supervise the lunch and recess period from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. As the children played and talked with Teddy it is easy to catch a glimpse of the magical relationship which exists between the children and Teddy Scott. One little blonde boy came by to tell him about the second place ribbon he had won at sports day.

"I think many of these children come from single parent families," said Scott, "and don't always have someone at home to brag to. Sometimes they invite me to their softball games and I'm the only male parent there. You have to get involved in prog-

rams to really see the light of what is happening in Arlington. You can't just sit home watching TV and drinking beer. When people get used to being where they are and not pushing for more than that, that's a poor man's way of keeping up with the Joneses."

Scott praised the Thompson School staff saying, "They are unbelievable and so dedicated that it would be almost impossible for me to quit because I would feel so guilty. The people around here have great big hearts and everyone is terribly supportive so what I do for Arlington I do. Everything I do is payback for me."

Besides volunteering much of his free time to take the kids on field trips and watch over afternoon play sessions, Scott's house is usually filled with children.

Since the death of his daughter Whitney in an accident last year, Scott has been unable to record or travel with the group, but says his time spent with the kids at Thompson is therapeutic and fun.

"Who knows, I might do this for the rest of my life," he said.

In memory and celebration of Whitney Scott and June DiNicolia, a first grader who died in 1969 when she was six, the Thompson School will be dedicating a newly constructed courtyard to them today.

The courtyard, which was designed by the students at Minuteman Tech, consists of six outdoor learning areas where teachers can conduct both academic and environmental lessons. It is also suitable for outdoor performances and assemblies.

"When my daughter died," said Scott, "it woke me up to understand just how important kids are. When you realize that you won't see them again, then you know just how bad it is."

"It's so important for parents to know just what it means to have children and that children need the love of their parents."

Although the only club in New England where people can still see the G-Clefs to perform is the Club Casino in Hampton Beach, N.H., Arlington residents can watch Teddy Scott entertain every afternoon at Thompson Elementary on North Union Street.

Sixth graders learn about alcohol

By WENDY MIRMAN
Special to The Advocate

Sixth-graders are not too young to learn about substance use and abuse.

For the past eleven years, Arlington High School junior and senior volunteers have been trained to teach Arlington public school seventh-graders, with no other adults present, in the Alcohol Awareness Peer Leadership Program.

From May 31 through June 2, eight high school peerleaders repeated the three 45-minute sessions for sixth-graders at Peirce and Brackett schools, at the request of their principals, Marilyn Flaherty and Vito Sammarco.

"The principals felt that children should be aware of issues of alcohol before seventh grade. We were happy to accommodate them by presenting a pilot program," said Elizabeth Oppedisano, executive

director of the Arlington Council on Alcohol and Drug Education, co-sponsor of the program with Vincent D'Antona, Arlington High School guidance director.

"We are considering taking the program to all sixth grades, depending on interest," Oppedisano added.

"I have a moral responsibility to bring children information regarding problems that lurk in their lives," said Sammarco, who outlined several reasons for the importance of support programs for sixth-graders.

"Family structure is irregular today — we need a combined effort of parents, schools and church to help our youngsters learn to make wise decisions. Kids just want to sit and drink as an activity, thanks, in part, to the glamorization of alcohol on television. Finally, as educators, we have to help children in school have a positive self-image, otherwise they can't learn and they are blocked from developing total life skills," the Brackett principal said.

"I'm pleased to have the girls come to talk to my classes — they're so well organized," said Flaherty

commending Oppedisano and D'Antona for their involvement. "I feel students should hear from one another — we're fortunate that the high school students were willing to share their expertise," Flaherty said.

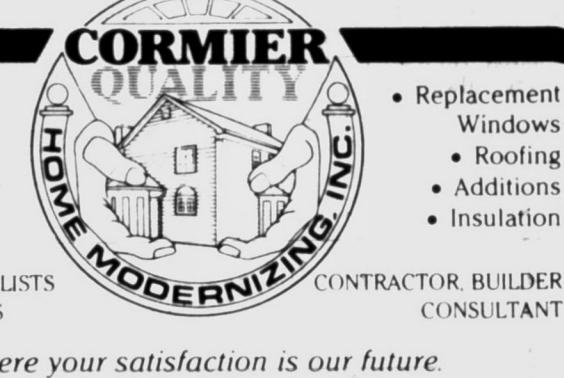
Peerleaders compared the reaction of the sixth-graders to the seventh-graders and found, in general, that they were "more naive, open and able to reveal personal feelings."

Several children in both schools expressed a concern for family members whom they felt "drank too much."

Graduate peerleader Brian Poole said, "The kids were very well-behaved; they listened to each other and to their leaders attentively."

"They were less intimidated by each other than students a year older," said Alison Adams, another peerleader.

The success of the peer program has attracted attention outside Arlington. Several years ago, Walter Devine, school superintendent, joined a consortium, "Project Alliance," an offshoot of the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs.



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Grads to continue studies

By P.L. BUSTAMANTE
Advocate Assistant Editor

For the third year in a row the number of Arlington High School graduates who will continue their education next year has increased.

According to the annual senior survey, 87 percent of this year's 351 graduates, or 305 seniors, will go on to post-secondary education. The number is up two percent from last year which, a record in itself, was up 6 percent from the year before.

"Eighty-seven percent is clearly a high-water mark," said Assistant Superintendent John Welch. "I think I'm safe in saying these survey results are the most impressive we've seen in that respect in the last decade."

This upward trend has lead to an 11 percent increase just in the last four years. In 1985, 75.9 percent of Arlington High School diploma recipients pursued further education, compared with the 86.9 percent this year.

Welch said the results are consistent with what has been going on in the last few years, and this trend is similar to other communities. High school seniors are more motivated about post-secondary school careers, and most see education as a way of achieving their career goals, Welch said.

In addition to the 230 graduates (65.5 percent of those surveyed) who are planning to attend four-year colleges and universities, another 16 percent or 56 grads will be attending junior colleges or business schools; 2.6 percent of nine graduates will attend technical or nursing schools, up five from last year; 1.4 percent or five students will enroll in preparatory schools; and another five will enroll in post-graduate schools.

Thirty-one graduates, 8.8 percent of the respondents, will be going on

to work, with 21 already employed. Six graduates will be going on to military services, two more than last year, while nine were listed in the survey as unclassified.

Besides the great percentage of graduates who will continue their education, the most impressive and distinguishing feature of this year's class is the diversity of schools represented, Welch said. "Our students will be attending many of the most prestigious colleges and universities throughout the United States."

Again, as last year, the largest number of students, 23, will attend Middlesex Community College. Last year 35 said they would attend the Bedford school.

Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, however, came in close behind Middlesex with 22 A.H.S grads planning to attend each. Of the 50 grads who applied to Northeastern, 48 were accepted, though less than half plan to attend.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst accepted the largest number of A.H.S grads, 56 of the 67 who applied to the school.

Other popular schools include Bentley College with 13 A.H.S grads enrolled for the fall; the University of Lowell with 17; Bunker Hill Community College and Fitchburg State with seven each; and Aquinas Junior College with six.

Students were readily accepted at Boston University, U. Mass. Boston, Suffolk University, Bridgewater State, Mass. Bay, North Adams State, Plymouth State College, University of Rhode Island, Salem State, St. Anselm, Syracuse University, Southeastern Massachusetts University, and the University of New Hampshire, five or fewer grads chose to enroll at each of these schools.

In the Ivy League schools, only Harvard, Cornell, and Columbia universities will be seeing Arlington High School graduates next year. Harvard, where five applied and two were accepted, will enroll those two; Cornell, where three applied and two were accepted, will enroll one; as will Columbia, where only one applied.

No AHS grads were accepted at Princeton, Yale, MIT, though one applied to each Princeton and Yale, and two applied to MIT.

Dartmouth College accepted only one of the five students who applied, though the graduate chose not to attend the New Hampshire school.

Though one grad will attend the University of Chicago, two will attend the University of Southern California, and one will head out to Arizona State College, the vast majority of AHS grads will remain on the East Coast to continue their education.

Two graduates will be heading to the Mass. Maritime Academy in the fall, one to the U.S. Airforce Academy, one to the U.S. Naval Academy, and none to West Point, though one student applied and was accepted to the military school.

The 305 AHS graduates going on to post-secondary education submitted approximately 1,110 applications close to 300 more than last year.

The senior survey is given each year primarily to account for everyone's intentions, Welch said. The School Committee and the community at large have always shown great interest in the results of the survey.

"The survey shows the final result of our effort to provide education for our students," said Welch. "That is our objective, to prepare the students for whatever they will be facing after graduation."

AHS has 351 members in graduating class

(From page 1A)

actions at our own risk.

"It is up to each person how much of a risk he or she is willing to take on the way to becoming truly individual," said Wright. "As we leave the comfort that high school has afforded us, we go into a world where we will have great control of our own lives, so don't be afraid to be yourself."

The class gift, the arch used for graduation, was presented by Kimberly A. Newell, president of the class of 1989.

"I thank each and every one of you for making my time here at Arlington High School real special, and I hope you take time in the next couple of days to say good-bye in your own way," Newell said to her classmates

before the presentation. It was the largest gift presented in the last 30 years.

The valedictory address was given by top-ranked student Jason Pirrello, who will attend Harvard University in the fall. He urged his fellow students: "We are all sad when we think of how many people we will miss, but we'll have memories of our friends to sustain us as we look forward to meeting new people and making new friends.

"In the work 'Youth and Age', Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote: 'Friendship is a sheltering tree.' So I hope you all have ample shelter in your life."

The presentation of the diplomas was made by School Committee Chairman William J. O'Brien Jr.,

who also proclaimed the enthusiasm felt by the School Committee: "Academically the School is very proud of this class. But remember, as individuals there will be some of you who could have done better, or could have done a little more thinking. Each one of you should not be trying to be like everyone else, but individually. We know you will have a great, great future."

Superintendent Walter Devine told the class: "As you graduate and face new beginnings and tomorrow, be true to yourselves and your community. New forget your roots, no matter how far you may go from Arlington. No matter how far your journey, always remember your family and the education that your have received."

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Offering \$1.25 per square foot including utilities, which was met

Gibbs tenant interviews over

By WENDY MIMRAN
Special to The Advocate

The Redevelopment Board has concluded its interviews of prospective tenants at Gibbs Junior High School in East Arlington. The facility will close at the end of this school year because of budgetary constraints.

The board is seeking tenants to use the building during the five-year period the School Committee has determined to turn over the building for rental. Final selections are scheduled for the June 19 board meeting.

"In 3½ years, the School Committee will decide whether to extend the lease period beyond the initial five years or to return the building to Arlington Public Schools," said Alan McClenen Jr., secretary of the board and director of Planning and Community Development.

During the open meeting on May 31 in the hearing room in town hall, five organizations presented proposals.

Once again, concerns about traffic and parking prevailed. Compatibility with other groups was also discussed. The board was particularly curious about the lack of request for the media center space which groups involved with children or handicapped persons described as "too many levels, treacherous and dangerous."

One participant from a theatrical group did, however, envision the area for certain performances or rehearsals.

Jean Flanigan of the Arlington Center for the Arts, an applicant for the space, said "We are a non-profit service-oriented center made up of 80 artists who believe that an arts center makes a community more cohesive. We want to rent studios, perform, offer classes and reach out to the community through schools and senior citizens, for example."

Offering \$1.25 per square foot including utilities, which was met

by some skepticism as "inappropriate" by board member Doris Cremens, the group was willing to accept 10,000 square feet if their original request of 18,000 square feet could not be granted.

"We'll be as flexible as we can for the rent," said David Whittredge, president of the center.

Community Human Services Inc. was introduced by acting director, William F. Chrisemer, who said they needed 13,000 square feet of program space for their Kelliher workshops, which provide work training and functional skills courses for developmentally delayed persons.

The Home Economics and Industrial Arts rooms would be very useful to the group, he added.

The organization is also requesting 3,500 square feet for administrative purposes, offering to pay \$3.65 per square foot for the larger area and \$4.25 for the smaller on a five-year lease. Non-profit, the Community Human Services Inc. receives state-mandated funding for their program.

Ecole Bilingue Inc., currently housed at the Parmenter School, with a preschool and K-6, provides bilingual education to French nationals and to Americans and others who wish their children to be fluent in French at an early age.

According to parent Bob Delaney, "We are looking to expand our student body, asking for approximately 19,422 rentable square feet for five years on the ground and first floors."

Hesitant to accept less space, representatives from the school felt it would diminish their ability to grow. A potential problem, according to McClenen, was the demand for immediate costly changes such as "delivering the space free from lead paint and properly containing asbestos and building partitions."

Schools for Children Inc. offers

classes for children with learning disabilities. The 5- to 22-year-old group is now at the Crosby School, but the pre-school is now located in Cambridge, where the school first began as an outgrowth of Lesley College demonstration laboratories.

"Our first priority is to move our early education program from Cambridge to Arlington and our central office functions from the Crosby to the Gibbs. A second priority would involve shifting a small component of students learning transitional skills applicable to the workplace and independent living to the Gibbs. We are especially interested in using existing equipment in the Wood and Metal Shops and Home Economics area," said Director Theodore Wilson III. Offering \$4.25 per square foot including utilities, the school as requested 18,000 square feet for five years.

Tot Stop Inc. is a newly formed organization to provide services, for families with young children — infants through elementary school age — according to Carolyn Kenney, director.

The organization wants to offer a "junior citizens center" where children can play supervised by parents or guardians and where adults have the opportunity to network casually or through workshops or formal seminars.

They are looking for 4,000 square feet at \$2.25 per square foot for five years and will only require two or three all-day parking spaces, since most people will not stay for more than two hours, Kenney said.

Commenting on the arduous task of selection, McClenen said, "It's my office's job to sort out the options offered by the various parties. My guess is that next Wednesday, June 7, the board can indicate to some tenants that it won't work unless something else happens. Final decisions should be announced on June 19."

LIBRARY NOTES

Children's artwork sought

Children ages 3-14 are invited to help turn the Robbins Library Children's Department into a circus for the up-coming Summer Reading Program, "This Summer ... Join The Circus At The Library." Artwork in any media that is circu-

lated may be brought to the Junior Library or to the Fox and Dallin Branches through Friday, June 30. All contributors will receive a small prize, and artwork will be on display all summer.

Movie Fox Branch

The movie "Santa Fe Trail" will be shown at the Fox Branch Library Friday, June 9 at 2 and 7:30 pm.

Errol Flynn gives one of his best performances in this exciting drama of the days just before the Civil War when Kansas was torn apart by inner conflict as John Brown began his violent, fanatic, anti-slavery crusade. The result was one of the bloodiest periods in American history.

Flynn plays Jeb Stuart and Ronald Reagan plays George Custer. Olivia De Havilland also stars, assisted by Raymond Massey, Alan Hale.

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MAIL KEY

STRAIGHT TEETH TALK

By JOEL P. DOUGLAS, D.M.D.
Orthodontist

70 Trapelo Rd., Belmont 489-0500
10 Bailey Rd., Arlington 646-7171

WHAT'S NEW IN BRACES

Major advances have been made in recent years in approving not only the appearance of braces but also the technical aspect of moving teeth.

New clear plastic braces are especially appealing to adults. While the original plastic brackets used to discolor or break with time, the new ceramic ones, though costlier, stay clear throughout treatment with minimal breakage. Even white coated arch wires are available if the patient objects to the standard metal wire. Metal brackets that are still preferred by most orthodontists for children are now smaller and bonded directly onto the teeth so it is easier to clean around them.

"Invisible" or "lingual" braces bonded onto the inside surfaces of the teeth are available from a limited number of orthodontists for those adults who, for one reason or another, do not want the braces to show.

Some of the wires used to straighten the teeth are now made of titanium metal instead of stainless steel. The titanium has been found to act over a longer period of time with less breakage and distortion, resulting in longer intervals between changing wires as well as fewer emergency visits.

Still in the experimental stage are the use of magnets to move teeth, in which magnetic forces attached to the braces are used to attract teeth together (to close spaces) or repel them apart (to push back teeth further back to make space for aligning the front teeth - just like what the headgear does).

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Voters face the override question

Question before voters

(From page 1A)

• the Fox Branch Library in East Arlington to remain open;
 • two firefighter and two police officer positions will be kept;
 • funds for the Council on Aging and the Youth Consultation Center;
 • Several teaching positions, money for school building maintenance, textbooks and supplies;
 • an assistant building inspector;
 • And, a study on the classification plan for town employees.

The override question was placed on the ballot by selectmen after the Town Meeting last year passed a referendum seeking that board to study an override or other ways of raising revenue for the town.

This spring Town Meeting voted 11-11 in support of the ballot question.

As far as a campaign, this year's override has been quiet with an organized group of town residents and officials working in support of the override, but no organized opposition, as was present in the last override attempt two years ago.

Polls will be open Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and any registered voter in town can vote on the ballot question.

Past tries failed

(From page 1A)

Before the March 7, 1987, town election that included the first Proposition 2½ question, Powers predicted the turnout would be light. It was light, 25 percent, but the verdict was not.

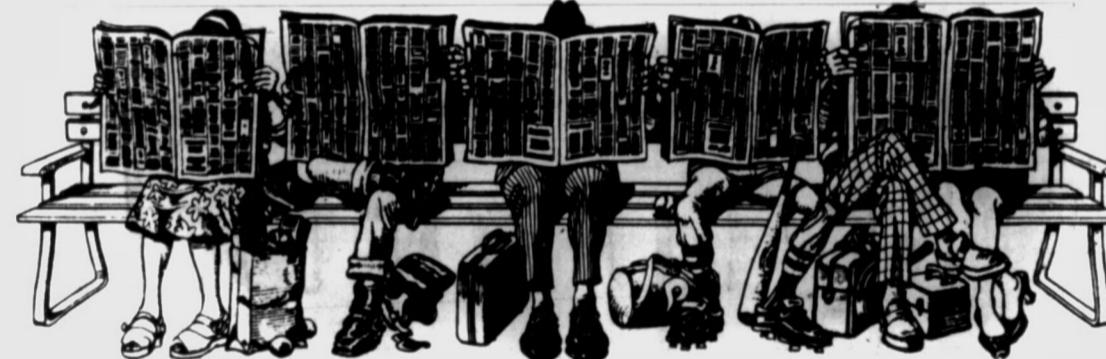
The override was presented in two parts, the first question was defeated 5,259 against to only 1,711 in support. Question two did only marginally better, going down to defeat 4,597 "no" votes to 2,162 "yes" votes.

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CALCULATION OF TAX RATE FISCAL YEAR 1990		
WITHOUT OVERRIDE		WITH OVERRIDE
54,017,818	54,017,818	54,017,818
850,445	850,445	850,445
225,000	225,000	225,000
55,093,263		55,093,263
0		2,869,538
\$55,093,263		\$57,562,791
DETERMINATION OF THE TAX RATE		
THE TAX RATE IS DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING:		
TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED FROM REAL ESTATE TAXES		
X 1000		
TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE OF REAL ESTATE		
\$11.14	TAX RATE DIFFERENCE OF .72	\$11.86
REAL ESTATE TAXES ON AVERAGE ASSESSMENT OF \$200,000:		
\$2228	DIFFERENCE OF \$144.00	\$2372
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\$144.00 ON THE AVERAGE REAL ESTATE BILL WHICH		
WOULD BE \$12.00 PER MONTH OR \$2.77 PER WEEK.		
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Election means mountain of work for clerk

By P.L. BUSTAMANTE
Advocate Assistant Editor

It may require some effort for registered voters to mark their ballots in Saturday's special election, but preparing for the election itself involves a mountain of work for the town clerk's office, most of it to ensure that the results are honest and fair.

"There are a lot of nitty-gritty things that have to be done before an election," said Town Clerk Anne Powers. This, of course, includes registering voters and keeping the list up-to-date.

As of Feb. 10 the number of registered voters had reached a current high of 29,572. As of Monday, June 5 the figure dropped to 28,870, including new registrations and recent deletions based on town census forms. Registration lists are revised yearly during springtime, when the names of those not listed on the census are dropped.

Voters whose names have been dropped from the list, but who still live in town, may be reinstated at the polls, according to Powers.

Powers expects a large voter turnout for this Proposition 2½ override special election.

"Judging from today it will be fairly high. The absentee ballots are coming in like said Powers. As of Monday, June 5, the town clerk's office had received close to 450 absentee ballots, including 50 over the counter ballots just that day.

That number is creeping towards the total of absentee ballots cast in last year's presidential election — 1,200. State law requires that absentee balloting end at noon on Friday, June 9, the day before the election.

Pre-election registration for the override vote is higher than for last spring's town election, according to Powers. The clerk says pre-election registration is usually higher before a presidential election.

Powers said the 1975 referendum on building the new high school, drew a high turnout of 38 percent of those registered. The clerk expects more for this override election.

To prepare for Saturday's vote, however high or low the turnout, the town clerk's office has to figure out how many ballots will be needed for each of the 21 precincts.

The 275 ballot machines must be revamped with new booklets and then transported to the proper polling places. To make sure the vote count is accurate, the registering ballot boxes, where voters drop their ballots after marking them, must be serviced. This includes checking the ink which marks the ballot as it drops into the box. There are 21 registering boxes, one for each precinct.

The ballots are counted at town hall on a new time-saving machine. The machine saves time in the counting, but not before the election.

Powers must check the accuracy of the counting machine several times before, during, and just after the election. This week workers in the clerk's office tested the machine's accuracy by preparing, punching, and running 105 ballots through the mechanical phenomenon. The results will be sent to the Attorney General's office at the Statehouse.

The same test must be run again Saturday evening one hour before the ballots come into the town clerk's office, and again one hour after the ballots from the last pre-

Voters whose names have been dropped from the list, but who still live in town, may be reinstated at the polls, according to Powers.

cinct are passed through the machine.

Getting the ballots to the polls also involves a system of checks and safeguards. On Friday morning, said Powers, the clerk's office will be busy packing assigned ballots by precinct into the boxes. The boxes are then sealed and carried by police officers out of the clerk's office to the police station, where they stay overnight in a prison cell.

The cell will be double-locked: one lock that only the police can open and one lock that only the town clerk can open.

On Saturday, the ballots and boxes, again under police escort, travel to the polls at 8 a.m. when the polls open.

The absentee ballots themselves require a lot of work. The package sent out to those voters involves seven pieces, including a styrofoam sheet used by voters to punch the ballot without ripping it.

Last week the election wardens and clerks, one set from each of 21 precincts, met to prepare for the election.

The wardens and clerks will be at the polling place, as will the four inspectors assigned to each precinct.

The inspectors take charge of the voting list. Each precinct has two Democrats and two Republicans as inspectors. One from each party is in charge of marking the voter's name off the list as he goes in to vote, and one from each party will check the voter's name as he exits, dropping the ballot in the box.

The polls close at 8 p.m. and Powers said she expects the first ballot boxes to arrive at town hall for counting around 8:30 p.m., and with the new machine, the tallies should be done by 10 or 10:30 p.m.

According to Powers, the election will cost \$35,726, including printing warrants, paying police officers, rent needed for one of the polling places, transportation of equipment, ballot page inserts, envelopes, and computer programmers.

This is the first time a special election has taken place since the town acquired the new counting machinery. Powers says it will cost less than other contests, because the new machine reduces costs by reducing counting time.

Cable television will once again broadcast the election. This time the broadcaster will have only one camera and one light, and will be headquartered in the hearing room, Powers said.

This will be the sixth election that the town clerk's office has had to prepare for since March 1988. The others include: the presidential primaries, the 1988 town election, state primaries, the presidential election, and this year's town election in March.

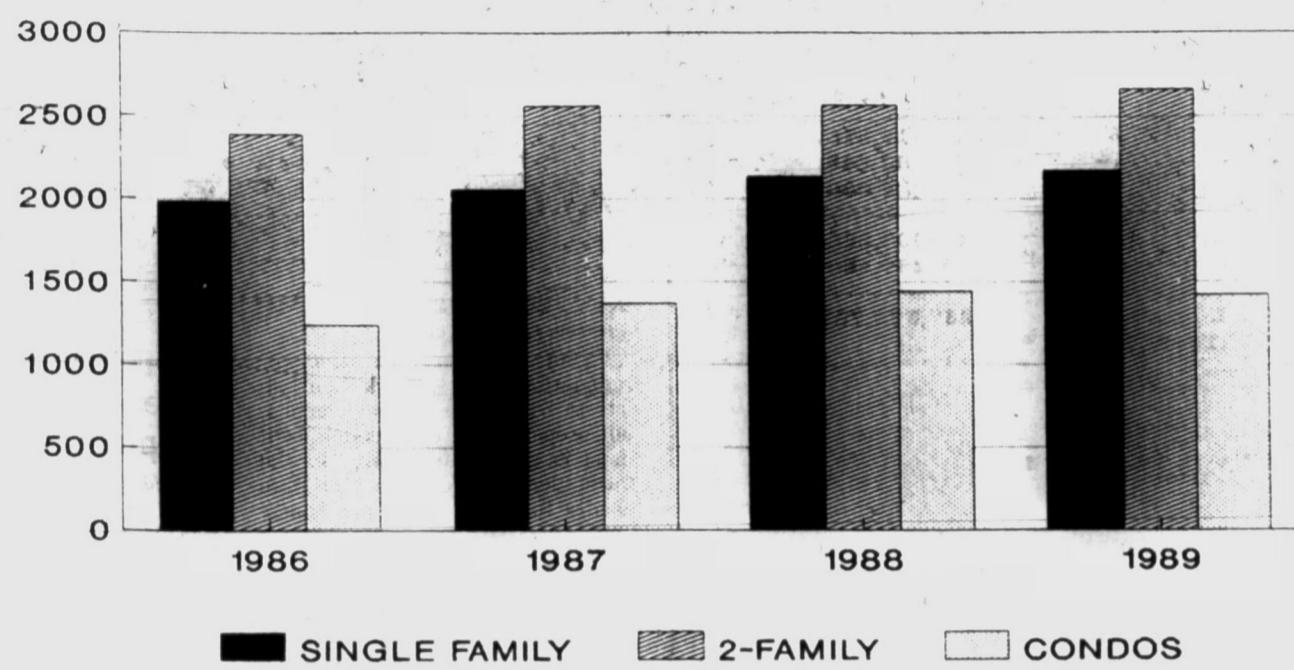
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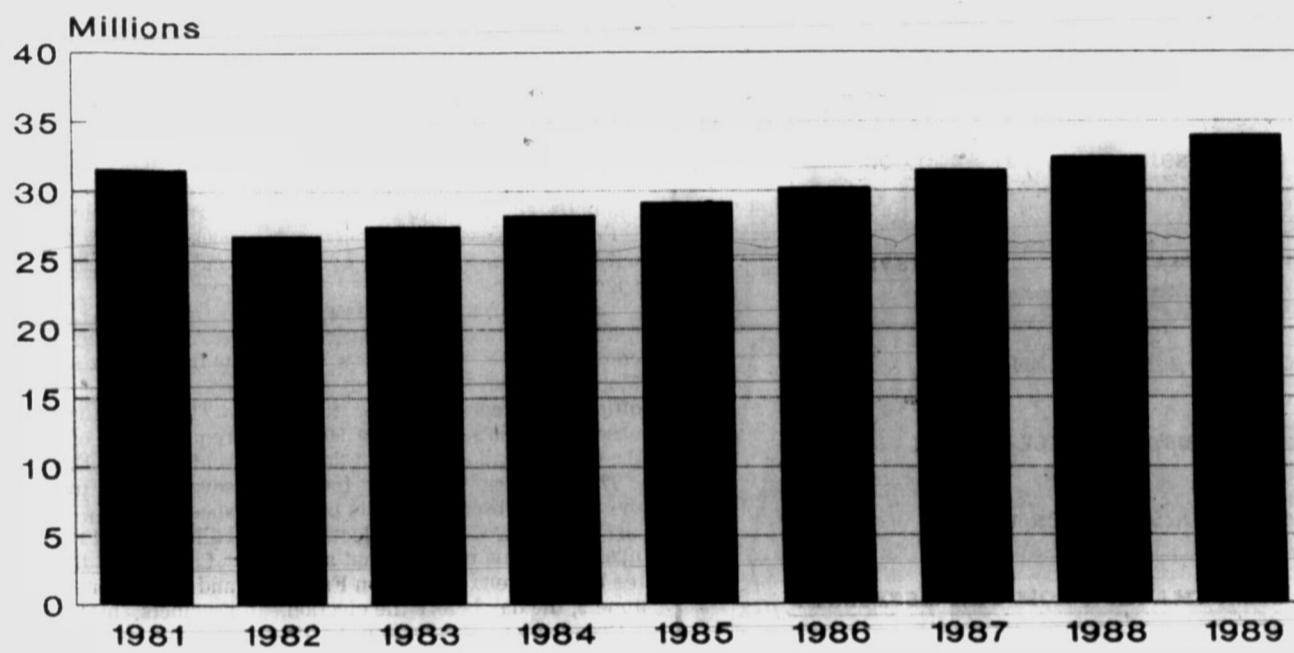
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What the numbers say

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(Charts courtesy of Assessor's Office.)



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CORRECTION:

Because of a production error, the Bank Five advertisement that ran in last week's Arlington Advocate quoted several incorrect rates on Certificates of Deposit. We regret any inconvenience our error may have caused the bank or its customers. For Bank Five's current rate, please see their advertisement on page 10A.



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POLICE LOG**Arrests**

On May 30, a Brattle Terrace man, 18, was arrested at Downing Square and charged with disorderly conduct and two counts of assault and battery. A police officer reported he saw him walking directly into traffic on Park Avenue and tried to stop his advance. The man, who had apparently been drinking, became violent when the officer intervened and three policemen were required to subdue him and take him into custody, according to police.

A 16-year-old Sunnyside Avenue youth was arrested on Mass. Avenue May 30 after he had taken a car from a gas station also on Mass. Avenue. The car was being serviced at the time. Because he is a juvenile he was only charged with operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle without a license.

On June 1, an Orient Avenue man, 34, was taken into custody for operating without a license. He was arrested at the corner of Mass. Avenue and Everett Street.

A Malden man, 16, was arrested June 1 on a North Andover warrant for trespassing.

A 28-year-old Park Avenue Extension man whose Kensington Park parents had secured a petition banning him from their home was arrested June 1 after he violated that petition.

Also on June 1, which turned out to be quite a busy day for police, a 24-year-old Appleton Street man was arrested after the Arlington police drug unit had secured a search warrant for his house. They found in his possession cocaine, marijuanna, and various drug paraphernalia.

Also on June 1, a 19-year-old Towler Road man and a 20-year-old Valentine Road man were arrested at 11:30 p.m. at Bishop School parking lot and charged with possession of alcohol by a minor.

A 41-year-old Gardner Street man was charged June 2 with disturbing the peace and assault and battery upon two police officers at that address.

On June 3, a 33-year-old Franklin Street man was arrested by Winchester police on an Arlington warrant. He had been arrested last week for possession of marijuana and failed to appear at his trial.

A Newcomb Street man, 19, was arrested at Fremont Court for operating under the influence of alcohol.

A 26-year-old Grove Street man was arrested June 3 at his home on a Foxboro warrant for operating after

the suspension of his license. His girlfriend claimed he had beaten her prior to the arrest, but she failed to appear at the arraignment.

Also on June 3, a 29-year-old Eustis Street man was arrested for operating without a license and for going the wrong way on a one way street at Broadway and Alton Street.

On June 4, a Washington Street man, 23, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and operating a vehicle after his license had been revoked.

A 16-year-old Pierce Street man and two 17-year-old youths from Hathaway Circle and Hillside Avenue were arrested for trespassing at Arlington High School senior graduation party.

Break-ins

On May 30, \$200 in cash and checks was reportedly taken from Lexington Eye Association on Mass. Avenue.

A Fremont Street woman said a 20-piece towel set and \$50 in cash was taken from her home on May 30. There were no signs of forced entry.

A Forest Street man had his shed broken into May 30 and two Toro lawn mowers and a weedeater were stolen.

Also on May 30, a Medford Street woman reported \$18 had been taken from her wallet in her apartment.

A Lake Street woman May 30 had her 35mm camera and flash worth \$440 and binoculars worth \$75 taken from her apartment.

On June 1, a Mass. Avenue woman reported a white male, 5-foot 9-inches tall with light brown hair took \$30 in cash from her apartment and then fled.

On June 2, a Gardner Street man discovered that two lawn mowers worth \$200 had been taken from his garage.

Also on June 2, a Marathon Street woman told police a white male had taken two cameras from her home.

Larcenies

On May 30, a Lexington man had the right window smashed and a jack and spare tire stolen from his car, which was parked on Mass. Avenue.

A Malden man, on May 30, had four Mag wheels stripped from his 1978 Chevrolet. The thieves had apparently used the jack stolen from the Lexington man's car on Mass. Avenue.

Mystic Gulf on Mystic Street said that \$285 cash was taken from their

register May 30. The suspect was believed to be a white male in his late 20s. Witnesses said he was 6-feet 1-inch tall, weighed 200 pounds, was of muscular build, and had dark hair, and a mustache. He was wearing a Harley Davidson T-shirt and jeans. After asking the attendant for telephone change the suspect was believed to have taken the money from the register while the attendant was outside the office.

On May 31, an Ottawa Road man reported a 3-foot flag and pole had been taken from his home.

On June 1, a pair of binoculars worth \$250 were taken from the 1985 Honda owned by a Robin Hood Road woman.

Another Robin Hood Road woman reported June 1 that an undisclosed amount of change was taken from her 1988 Pontiac which was left unlocked.

A Parker Road woman also told police June 1 that \$15 in change had been taken from her 1983 Chrysler which had also been left unlocked.

A Walden man, on June 1, had a set of golf clubs and a blue bag worth \$700 stolen from his 1982 Chevrolet which had been parked on Summer Street.

Also on June 1, a College Avenue man had a radar detector and 80 tapes worth \$250 taken from his unlocked 1986 Pontiac.

On June 2, two light covers worth \$80 were reported stolen from the home of a Hilton Street man.

Vandalism

On May 31, a Crosby Street man had the window of his 1985 Chevrolet Camaro broken by a rock.

A Malden man May 31 had the windshield of his 1986 Volvo smashed.

Brighams at Mill Street had four 4-foot by 4-foot windows broken on May 31.

A Summer Street man May 31 had a house window smashed and his 1977 GMC van suffered damage to its right door, windshield, and grill.

Comac Inc. of Lowell Street had a 1-foot by 4-foot double pane window smashed on May 31.

Atlanta Roofing of Park Avenue also had a 1-foot by 4-foot double pane window smashed on May 31.

On June 1, a Draper Avenue woman had the right rear window of her 1985 BMW broken while it was parked at that address.

On June 3, a Mass. Avenue man had his 3-foot by 5-foot window smashed by a rock.

On the farm

Fran Busa maneuvers his tractor by the Arlington Reservoir at the Sun Valley Farms recently. (George C. Ferrara photo)

Mass. Ave. poses perils for students

By GARY FLOYD

Special to The Advocate

Imagine trying to cross Mass. Avenue with 10 kids.

Crossing Mass. Avenue is not easy for a single, healthy adult. It's doubly difficult for a day-care class, crossing the main street to use Arlington's parks or to visit various attractions on field trips, say the directors of some of Arlington's children's centers.

The lights on the avenue are often too short and frequently the kids are left to the courtesy of the motorists, who are unaware that there are pedestrian crossing signs within the center — or who ignore them.

Afsaneh Afshar, the director of Arlington Infant Toddler Center (AITC), says that the walk lights are too short, and that the red light comes on too soon after the walk sign.

"Unless you walk super fast, it changes," Afshar said.

Staff members at her center use a wagon when they take the younger kids out on walks, and it is particularly difficult getting off the curve because cars often block the ramp for the handicapped, said Meredith Canavan of AITC.

Gwen Hooper, director of the Arlington Children's Center (ACC), said that her center tries as much as possible to avoid having students cross Mass. Avenue. She said the kids rarely cross the thoroughfare more than once a month, and their tendency is to visit sites on the ACC side of Mass. Avenue.

In recent times the day-care industry has been made more conscious of "safety issues and liability issues," Hooper added.

She feels confident with ACC's ratio of staff members to children, and this allows the center to more

than adequately supervise walks.

Hooper, who has worked in childcare for 19 years, said that one contributing factor to the problem is that some teachers are not trained to take small children on walks.

The ACC was more fortunate than some day-care centers because it has a large playground behind the school, said Hooper.

Gerry Pedrini, director of the Sunshine Nursery, succinctly said that "you don't cross" Mass. Avenue. The Sunshine Nursery is not a good example because the kids are only in for three hours in the morning, and seldom go on walks or on field trips, she said.

Pedrini, however, added that visiting the post office or the fire house is a difficult task. She said that she too tries to "stay away from Mass. Ave." Adding, "who wants to take your life into your hands."

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Comment

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Vote 'Yes' on override

About a year ago, Arlington's elected and appointed officials gathered in the town hall hearing room to find a way to solve the town's budget problems.

To reduce the almost \$2.5 million deficit facing Arlington for this next fiscal year, departments tightened their belts and made heavy cuts, including painful staff and service reductions.

These measures are nothing new. Town departments have been shaving closer and closer to the bone since the voters overwhelmingly supported Proposition 2½ in 1981 — but, to maintain services at the present levels, more money will have to be raised.

The struggle between Prop. 2½'s tax-reducing measures and the need for more money to maintain public services will culminate this Saturday in the single ballot question voters will trek to the polls to decide.

That decision made in two days by Arlington's voters will be the toughest town residents have had to face in a long time. Either choice will affect not only the level of services offered next year, but the quality of life in the town's future.

It is far too easy to vote "No" on an override question. It is also too easy to merely say there is fat in town government. Town government receives the smallest chunk of what we pay annually in taxes and fees and provides the most immediate and direct services, such as picking up trash, providing police and fire protection and educating our children.

By birth or by choice, Arlington is our home. What kind of a home we have, both in terms of the community and in value of our real estate, is what we are determining.

The ballot question seeks an operating budget override of \$2,269,528 to be spent over a three-year period. About \$1.1 million would be spent in fiscal year 1990, which begins July 1, with the remainder to be spent over the subsequent two years.

On an average home valued at \$200,000, the override would mean an increase of \$144 a year in taxes. That's \$12 a month or \$2.77 per week. The vote would raise taxes townwide by 10 percent instead of the annual 2.5 percent increase.

What's on the chopping block will affect everyone in town. Without an override, the East Arlington branch library will be closed (the other is closing in July regardless of the override), two police and two firefighter positions will be eliminated, much road repair will stop, services for the elderly through the Council on Aging and for young people at the Youth Consultation Center will be cut back and many teachers, classes and school services will be eliminated.

The fluff of one is the essential service to another. One need not agree with how all the money is spent in Arlington to see the need for more revenue.

Arlington is not alone in this problem. Almost half of the 351 communities in the state will seek an operating budget override this year, according to the state Department of Revenue.

The success rate for these ballot questions has risen from 47 percent to 85 percent in the last fiscal year.

Because of the town's situation of limited areas for growth and a small business community to shoulder the tax burden, Arlington has felt the strain of operating under Prop. 2½ before many of our neighbors. Many more will be following this path in the future.

An override is part of the original intent of Prop. 2½. Written into the law from the beginning, with the modification three years ago changing the necessary vote from a two-thirds majority to a simple majority, the override is the safety net that allows any municipality to survive during tight financial times.

In voting for Prop. 2½ eight years ago, many thought they were voting to have their taxes set at 2.5 percent of the value of the property. If that were true today, on that same average home of \$200,000 instead of paying \$2,172 in taxes at the current tax rate of \$10.86, homeowners would be paying \$5,000 in real estate taxes.

The average homeowner in Arlington is paying about 1.1 percent of the market value of their homes in taxes. That's one quarter what it was prior to Prop. 2½.

The override is a release valve, it is not the elimination of Prop. 2½. This is part of the natural progression of the tax cap. Its original intent was to give the voters the power of determining when it was time to raise taxes. Now is that time.

In that meeting a year ago, one town official looked up at the portrait of Arlington's benefactor Nathan Robbins, a poultry and game purveyor, standing amid the gruesome carcasses of slaughtered animals. The official quietly said to those around him: "I've been cutting programs for so long, I think he and I might have the same job."

Don't allow Arlington's services, and all that has been built through hard work and concern, to be butchered. Vote yes on the ballot question and say yes to maintaining the Arlington of today for tomorrow.

MEETINGS

Thursday, June 8:

Town Day Committee, 3 p.m., hearing room, second floor, town hall.

Monday, June 12:

Board of Selectmen, 7:15 p.m., board meeting room, second floor, town hall.

Tuesday, June 13:

Historical Commission, 8 p.m., Jarvis House.
Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:45 p.m., hearing room, second floor, town hall.

The Arlington Advocate

Established 1872
5 Water Street

Circulation 617-893-1670
Editorial 617-643-7901
Advertising 617-729-8100

Published Every Thursday
Arlington, MA 02174

Single newsstand copy 50¢. Subscription by mail, in county, \$16 per year
Out of county, by mail, \$29 per year

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Circulation is independently audited by Certified Audit of Circulations, Inc., P.O. Box 806, Hackensack, N.J. 07602. Reports available upon request.

Member of: National Newspaper Association, Suburban Newspapers of America, New England Press Association, New England Newspapers Association, Massachusetts Press Association, Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association.

The Advocate is part of the News-Transcript Group of Suburban Boston newspapers.

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The Arlington Advocate, established 1872, incorporates the Arlington News, established 1916, and the Arlington Press, established 1946.

The Arlington Advocate (USPS 031-900) is published weekly at \$16.00 (\$29.00 out of county) by Century Publications, Inc., a subsidiary of Harte-Hanck Communications, P.O. Box 69 Waltham, MA 02254. Second Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Send address change to The Arlington Advocate, Circulation department, P.O. Box 69, Waltham, MA 02254.

Exercise your vote!



Saturday's special election will give everyone a chance to put their votes where their opinions are. Get out and vote!

GUEST COLUMN

Vote to protect Arlington's legacy

By PEG SPENGLER
and STEPHEN MOSS
Special to The Advocate

Facing a potentially devastating \$2.5 million deficit, Arlington will suffer severe cuts in municipal and education services unless additional revenues are raised. In this Saturday's special town-wide referendum, citizens will vote on a modest increase in the tax levy allowed by Proposition 2½. Arlington's future depends on the outcome of this vote. Does a "Yes" vote repeal Prop 2½?

Absolutely not! The original framers of Prop 2½ created levy limit overrides so voters could temporarily increase revenues to support vital services when necessary. Prop 2½ will stay in effect and subsequent increases will continue to be limited to 2½ percent a year.

What will a "Yes" vote cost?

About \$12 a month for the average homeowner. Nobody wants to pay more taxes, but Arlington is in a crisis. If successful, the additional revenues will be spread out over three years to departments in predetermined percentages (e.g. schools, 52.56 percent of available funds). A successful referendum is by no means a panacea, but it will ease the cuts that have to be made and provide some financial stability until a more permanent solution can be found.

What is the current status of town departments and what will a "Yes" vote save?

The Arlington Police Department has 21 percent fewer officers than it

had in 1981 and now has the lowest ratio of officers per 1000 residents than any surrounding communities. A "Yes" vote will prevent cuts of yet two more officers.

The Arlington Police Department has lost 22 personnel since Prop 2½ was enacted and is still trying to operate the same equipment. A "Yes" vote will allow us to keep two of four positions targeted for elimination.

The Council on Aging and the Department of Youth Services are responsible for a wide variety of essential services to the elderly and our youth. Both face losing about one-third of their relatively small budgets with consequent loss in services. A "Yes" vote will restore their budgets close to current levels and renew our commitment to senior citizens and youth.

The Department of Public Works has lost 48 percent of their personnel, yet we need them to clean and plow our streets, sweep our leaves, collect our rubbish, and build and maintain our roads and sewers. They are increasingly unable to fulfill their duties. A "Yes" vote allows the town to retain six of ten eliminated positions.

The Fox and Dallin Branch Libraries are both scheduled to be closed due to the budget shortfall. A "Yes" vote will save the Fox Library, a key community facility for seniors of East Arlington families.

The Arlington School Department faces a devastating 7 percent cut this coming year while we now

spend less per capita than almost all surrounding towns. This is forcing deep and widespread cuts in vital academic and athletic programs and more than 30 teachers will be terminated with or without the override. A "Yes" vote will mean 1) available and badly needed funding for textbooks, educational materials, equipment, and computers; 2) maintaining current staffing in our science, music and academically-talented elementary programs; 3) retaining seven key positions in the junior high program; and 4) continued funding for varsity and junior varsity athletics and extracurricular activities.

What has been done since Prop 2½ has been enacted?

Arlington has survived Prop 2½ until now because of generous state aid, federal revenue sharing, declining school enrollments, and the availability of reserve funds. But these sources of revenue are now a thing of the past. While property tax revenues are just about the same as they were in 1981, health insurance, pensions, and trash disposal fees have skyrocketed 300-600 percent.

Prop 2½ has done an excellent job in cutting any waste or inefficiency in our local government and the days of spiraling property tax bills are indeed over. Property taxes are now only 1 percent of house values, five times less than their peak over a decade ago.

Neighborhood schools have been closed, administrators and teachers cut, police and fire positions

reduced, public employees cut, and many budgets cut or level funded. Employees and services have been cut each and every year resulting in a slow but insidious erosion of services.

At this point, Arlington, in comparison with ten surrounding communities, currently spends less per person than all but one of its neighbors, is tied for last in public safety, and second to last in schools.

Will this referendum vote affect property values in town?

Yes. The value of your home is directly linked to the reputation of Arlington's public schools and other town services. The quality of the schools system is usually the first question any homebuyer asks. The outcome of this highly visible vote, already covered by the Boston Globe and Boston TV stations, will affect the reputation of Arlington for years to come. A "Yes" vote will protect your single largest investment.

The Future

Those generations who built Arlington passed on a legacy of pride and commitment to providing needed services to its people. Today's generation have a responsibility to protect that legacy. Arlington's future depends on your vote. The choice is yours. Please join other concerned Arlingtonians and vote YES! this Saturday for an Arlington we can all be proud to call our home.

(Peg Spangler is a former member of the Board of Selectmen and Stephen Moss is a member of the School Committee.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Override will affect more than tax rate

TO THE EDITOR:

Each time I read The Advocate and see the letters to the editor about the Proposition 2½ override, I find

myself trying to understand the perspectives of the people doing the writing.

At a "coffee" in which several of us discussed the question, I was deeply affected by the plight of one dear friend who happens to be retired and on a fixed income. She owns her own house which she bought many years ago with a loved one now deceased.

While \$144 may not seem like a massive amount in this day, if she were deciding to buy a dress for that much, she would have to think long and hard. And so she is thinking long and hard before deciding whether to vote for or against this override.

As in any decision, she is trying to determine the circumstances that might effect whether she has made the "right" choice. Will failing to pass the override result in deterioration of services? How will passing the override with so much money going to the schools help a retired person?

All of us at the meeting looked at the way the town provides a variety of services and we all felt there were wastes here and there which might be cut. This theme recurs in the letters that have been opposed to an override vote.

I will admit to feeling incensed when the first proposal for air conditioning was described in the paper at an astronomical cost. Rightly or wrongly, I felt that we could spend far less than originally proposed. So is this how the override will be decided, by the emotions in our guts?

Are there answers to those on fixed income? Someone once suggested a "fee" for families with children to ease the school budget crisis. That is one way. Someone is our meeting described banking procedures which allow a homeowner to

A world away, in our backyards

With the town's financial problems and summertime concerns occupying most of our time, it is easy to not think about the events taking place half way around the world.

But the unrest among students and the military in Beijing, China cannot be ignored in Arlington. Early Tuesday, amid the CBS news reports from the torn land was an interview with Arlington native Sarah Lewis, a Dartmouth College student who has been studying in China for the last two months.

Lewis' account, like those of others in that country, was one of confusion on the part of Chinese people and a nervous anticipation over what may happen there next.

Here was an all too real reminder that the struggle for rights is not just something out of the history of early Arlington. We are connected to people in other parts of the world though those residents like Lewis and the town's sister cities projects.

We cannot ignore the events a world away because they might be about people from our own backyard.

withdraw some of the equity from their house before they sell or, heaven forbid, die.

If you have a house in Arlington and you are on a fixed income, you almost assuredly bought it many years ago and so the equity in your house has grown. Taking a very small percentage of it out to pay for a slightly larger than normal tax increase would help maintain the value of the property.

With housing already standing still (or maybe even decreasing in some cases), I truly believe that failure to pass the override will subtract from the value of our houses by making Arlington a less desirable location. Better to withdraw \$144 in equity from your house each year than to see its value fall by 1 percent or 2 percent each year. One percent of an average value house in Arlington, I would say, cannot be less than \$1,500. And the spirit of Prop. 2½ has not been broken. Our levee is 1.1 percent, less than half the prescribed 2.5 percent.

Should we pass the override and ignore what is done after? No. We must continue to look at ways to save money. Can we do better? Yes. Will it take work? Yes. Vote to override the 2½ percent maximum tax increase this Saturday and keep Arlington the desirable community it has always been.

Al Jette

(See LETTERS, page 9A)

COMMENT

Images from our past



Fred Chase's airplane idles for a moment while landing in Arlington about 60 years ago.
(Historical Society photo)

Fifty years ago

YEARS PAST IN ARLINGTON

Twenty-five years ago

Ten years ago

Funeral services were held at the First Parish Unitarian Church for Francis Edward Thompson, former president of the Moxie Company and a 45-year resident of Arlington. Mr. Thompson left an estimated \$300,000 to be divided among several Arlington and Boston institutions, including: 25 percent to the Symmes Hospital, 7 percent to the Arlington Boys Club, 3 percent to the Robbins Library, 7 percent to the Arlington Boy Scouts and 10 percent to the Arlington Community Chest.

A truck load of 2,000 books was shipped this week to Roxbury from hundreds of children in Arlington public, private, and parochial schools. The drive to collect the books was made possible by the close cooperation of the Arlington Civil Rights Committee, the Robbins Library, PTA groups, St. James, Immaculate Conception and St. Agnes parishes, as well as the Bartlett Ave. School, and St. Anne's School. Mrs. Howard Haas of the Arlington Civil Rights Committee served as chairwoman for the drive.

State approvals for the renovation of Arlington High School have been granted and work will begin shortly according to Charles Fagone of the school department. New construction of a gymnasium, shops, the court yard and bridges to the freshman building will be done at the same time as renovation in the center part of the school. New science labs, a learning center, home economics and industrial arts areas will be built. The whole project has been scheduled for 19 months, for completion by February 1981.

From page 8A)

Override will preserve property values

TO THE EDITOR:

As an Arlington homeowner and as a Realtor, I support the override of Proposition 2½. The town needs to retain first-class services and schools. Otherwise, our home values will be negatively affected.

Probably the largest single investment an Arlington homeowner has is his or her house. House values are tied to the strength of the community, measured by the quality of public services such as:

•elderly care

•police and fire protection

•libraries

•appearance and maintenance of the town

•and, most especially, the public schools.

I have observed that one of the first questions that a home buyer asks is a question about the quality of our schools, how Arlington schools rank with those of other communities. They ask this whether or not they have children, or even plan to have children because they are concerned about the resale value of the house they buy.

In my opinion, the override of Proposition 2½ is critical to the health of our community.

Louise Ruma-Ivers

Why vote for override?

TO THE EDITOR:

Why should I vote to override Proposition 2½? Many of the large corporations facing financial problems either freeze salary increases or tell their employees to take a pay cut. Has this been done in Arlington? Of course not. Has the town sold the vacant property next to the high school that is in back of Hodgdon-Noyes Buick? Of course not. There are still many other actions the town should take to minimize the so called financial crisis before they ask for the override. Only then will I consider voting for an override.

James A. Dunn

Planning group thanks survey participants

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to personally thank the Arlington teachers and administrators who took the time to respond in detail to a survey prepared by the Arlington Schools Long Range Planning Committee. The survey was designed to gather their opinions and suggestions on how to maintain and improve our Arlington public schools.

The response was tremendous. Almost 150 teachers took the time to think carefully about the future of education in Arlington. Most of them answered several open-ended questions at great length. These results are even more amazing when you consider the fact that the survey was distributed at the same time that

As a student of Arlington High and a citizen of Arlington, I would like to express my concern about the issue of Proposition 2½ override. First of all, I will repeat the issues at stake. There will be cuts in many aspects of Arlington life. These include the library system, the police and fire-fighting force, senior citizen services, public works, and the education system.

The Fox Branch Library and the Dallin Branch Library will be closed as of July 1. There will be an inadequacy of manpower in Arlington's firefighters and police department.

They will not be able to properly oversee the safety of this town. The senior citizens will lose many vital services, such as the visiting nurses. Many will eventually have to move so they can receive the proper care.

The area that will be most affected is education. Drastic cuts in all

areas will dramatically reduce the quality of education that is offered in Arlington. Elective courses, such as art, music, and industrial arts, will become virtually nonexistent.

The number of classes offered in any course will be reduced, causing an increased size in the number of students in a classroom. The reduction of teachers will make those who remain overworked.

Extracurricular activities will be cut, and the sports program will now cost from \$65 to \$125 dollars per student per season. There can be no true learning in such a situation. The students will be cheated out of an education that they deserve.

One of the survey questions asked how much of their own money the teacher spent for their classroom and supplies. You may be amazed to know that many teachers spend as much as \$1,000 out of their own pockets! This should not be necessary, but certainly shows how dedicated most teachers are and their true concern for doing the best job they possibly can.

The three open ended survey questions were:

1) In what ways would parent and/or community involvement be most beneficial to our schools?

2) What changes, if any, would you make to enhance your building and its grounds?

3) What would you, as an educator, hope the Long Range Planning Committee would recommend to the School Committee in their final report?

The results of the survey will be presented and discussed at future meetings of the planning committee. The meetings are open to the public and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m., in the School Committee room at the high school.

The work of the planning committee is being aided greatly by the dedicated teachers and administrators of Arlington. Thank you again.

David Boggs
Arlington Schools Long Range Planning Committee

Student supports override

TO THE EDITOR:

As a student of Arlington High and a citizen of Arlington, I would like to express my concern about the issue of Proposition 2½ override. First of all, I will repeat the issues at stake. There will be cuts in many aspects of Arlington life. These include the library system, the police and fire-fighting force, senior citizen services, public works, and the education system.

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The area that will be most affected is education. Drastic cuts in all

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to thank the School Committee and the school administration for giving me the opportunity to participate on the screening committee for the selection of the new principal for Arlington High.

The committee reviewed and interviewed 10 qualified candidates and presented to Superintendent Walter Devine and the School Committee the three most outstanding. After careful consideration and additional interviewing, Mr. Devine recommended and the School Committee voted that Mr. Charles McCarthy be our next principal.

It is disheartening, however, at a time when the School Committee and the school administration desperately need to be united and supportive of each other in order to cope with the financial and academic crisis brought upon the system by Prop. 2½, that Janice Bakey and Katherine Fennelly could not support the rest of the School Committee and the administration on the selection of Mr. McCarthy.

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They will not be able to properly oversee the safety of this town. The senior citizens will lose many vital services, such as the visiting nurses. Many will eventually have to move so they can receive the proper care.

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(See LETTERS, page 10A)

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(From page 9A)
will not pose a hindrance or be an obstacle to Mr. McCarthy as he carries out his duties and responsibilities as our new Arlington High School principal.

Carolyn Simmons

Students' work appreciated

TO THE EDITOR:
Four more students at Arlington High School deserve special thanks. They are Tim Geanakos, Tim Byrne, Jennifer Harrington and Diane Cook. They are the artists in Pauline Finsberg's classes who designed and created the posters at Robbins Library about the ongoing booksale and the current membership drive.

Their contribution helps us all and reminds us of the talents and willingness to contribute to the town of our fine young people. Take a special look at the posters as you come to the Library.

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Movie goers happy with theater

TO THE EDITOR:
Congratulations Richard Sacco for the newly renovated Regent Theater.

It was nice to see that the original size of the theater had not changed. Friendly atmosphere, comfortable seating (plenty of leg room) and to be escorted to your seat after the movie had started — what a nice change.

Good luck and thank you for preserving one of Arlington's theaters.

Mary and Anne movie goers

Bishop PTO thanks supporters

TO THE EDITOR:

The Bishop School PTO would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their contributions to our Spring Fair on May 20: Kwik Kopy Printing, Stop & Shop, Heartland Food Warehouse, Brigham's, Fitness First, Folktree Concerts, The Boston Bruins, The Boston Celtics, Mahoney's Rocky Ledge Nursery, Capitol Theater, GameMaster, The Flower Cart, Garrison's Zoom One-Hour Photo, Leone's Provisions, Fabric Corner, Sports Etc., Hall's Nostalgia, Warren Collectibles, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Parlor, Clown Around, Movies & More, The Huntington Theater Company, The Discovery Museums, The Children's Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts, The New England Aquarium, Cameras Inc., Video Horizons,

Anderson Automotive, D'Agostino's Delicatessen, Savory Fare, Arlington Food Co-op, Arlington Health Foods, Jimmy's Steer House, Domino's Pizza, Dough-Si-Doughnuts, Holovak & Coughlin, Just Blossoming Florist and Wilson Farms. The proceeds from our fair will help provide computer equipment, library materials, field trips, enrichment assemblies and playground equipment that town funds do not pay for. Please thank these merchants for their generosity — it is not only good community relations but an investment in quality education for Arlington school children.

Edith Allen

Bishop PTO Fair Committee

Support urged for Dallin library

TO THE EDITOR:

The Dallin Library in Arlington Heights will close its doors forever on July 1. This public library serves a population largely made up of elderly citizens, mothers with babies, and children. This library has a very special history, a dream realized through the hard work of Vittoria Dallin, the famed sculptor's wife.

For the town to let this wonderful place disappear is very, very sad. Between Robbins Farm Park and the border to Lexington, there is really no other public meeting place for the citizens of Arlington Heights.

My husband and I bought a house in Arlington two years ago. We have two small children. We are wondering what kind of a future we have in

a town which will let this library close without a fight.

We are wondering what will happen to the schools if the override does not pass. We assume that our property value will go down if this happens. We are sad to think that our children will not learn to read at the Dallin Library where the older children of our neighborhood spend many summer afternoons.

If you care about the children and the elderly of Arlington, please let the selectmen and the librarians know that you value the special service of the Dallin Library and see if it can be saved.

Debi Milligan

Questions on override answered

TO THE EDITOR:

Do I believe in affordable housing and reduced fees for senior citizens, health care, Meals on Wheels, the senior center, public libraries, safe and clean streets, fire protection, maintained buildings, good parks, and an excellent school system? My answer is an emphatic YES.

Many of these programs came into being to provide for the needs of a well informed and health citizenry. It horrifies me that today we are going to provide less for our citizens than in the less affluent past. As a country, a recent Forbes magazine states, we are spending less per capita to enhance the productivity (and thus to enlarge the income) of our children than our parents spent on us.

(See LETTERS, page 11A)

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